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ABSTRACT

In New York State the Governor's Plan under the Job Training Partnership Act requires that the State Education Department allocate its Title IIA funds among three general program areas for local services: (1) basic skills preparation; (2) school to work transition; and (3) firm specific training. The Plan also provides for coordination of activities and the development of demonstration projects. Eight percent of the programs are targeted on economically disadvantaged individuals who are the hardest to serve. Examples and models of projects developed under these guidelines are provided, specifically the State Education and Employment Demonstration program (SEED). The models exemplify some of the roles that educational institutions and services can play in fostering economic self-sufficiency for disadvantaged persons and communities within the State. Part I provides project descriptions and aims of programs in Program Year 1984-85. Difficulties encountered in each program are indicated and a brief summary of results is included. Part II outlines projects that are funded for year 1985-86. In both parts, names and addresses of contact persons are provided so that local agencies can be reached for additional information. The document is also intended for school and district administrators in their efforts to create new relations with employment and training agencies and other community organizations to better serve the disadvantaged population. (PS)

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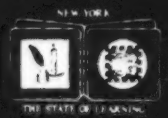
JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT

STATE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATIONS (SEED) PROGRAM

Program Years 1984-85 and 1985-86



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Job Training Partnership Act

STATE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATIONS (SEED) PROGRAM

Program Years 1984-85 and 1985-86

The University of the State of New York
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Office for Policy Analysis
Albany, NY 12234

November 1986

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FOREWORD

The State Education Coordination grant is one of the unique features of the Job Training Partnership Act. The grant, which amounts to eight percent of each State's Title IIA allocation, requires State and local education agencies to marshall their resources in order that they may participate in economic development and job training activities. As described in Section 123 of the JTPA, eight percent funds are to be used to provide education and training services for eligible participants and to coordinate these services with other employment related programs in the community.

In New York State, the Governor's Plan specifically calls for the State Education Department to fulfill this mandate by allocating its funds among three general program areas for local services: basic skills preparation, school to work transition, and firm specific training. In addition to local services, the Plan also provided for coordination activities and the development of demonstration projects. The Plan further requires that all eight percent programs be targeted on economically disadvantaged individuals who are the hardest to serve.

The purpose of this publication is to provide specific examples and models of projects that were developed under these guidelines, specifically the State Education and Employment Demonstration (SEED) program. These models exemplify some of the roles that education institutions and services can play in fostering economic self sufficiency for disadvantaged persons and communities within the State. Part I provides project descriptions and summaries of programs in Program Year 84-85. Part II outlines projects that are currently funded in Program Year 85-86. In both parts, contact persons are provided so that local agencies can be reached directly for additional information.

These materials were prepared at the request of the Job Training Partnership Council to be used at their annual meeting. We are grateful to Jewell Jackson McCabe, Chair of the Job Training Partnership Council, and to Peter Mannella, its Executive Director, for their support and encouragement in preparing this publication.

We hope that the State Education and Employment Demonstrations (SEED) program, as illustrated in the following pages, will provide guidelines and incentives to current and future practitioners of education and employment services. We particularly hope that this document will be useful to school and district administrators in their endeavor to create new relationships with employment and training agencies and other community organizations to better serve the disadvantaged population, especially those concentrated in economically distressed communities throughout the State.

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I. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND SUMMARIES, PY 1984-85

The primary purpose of the State Education and Employment Demonstrations (SEED) program in its first year, PY 1984-85, was to develop innovative and experimental education based projects for serving most-in-need populations. Projects were to be developed that reflect the two complementary principles that hard to serve clients require a range of services, and that all services need to be coordinated effectively and efficiently. Based on these two principles, a Request for Proposals was issued with the specification that proposals be submitted under the following three priorities:

1. To provide for the delivery of comprehensive educational services to most-in-need JTPA eligible participants such as the handicapped, teenage parents, displaced homemakers, the homeless, public assistance recipients, and other potentially structurally unemployed persons.

2. To link or match JTPA services with federal and state-funded programs to serve school dropouts, other at-risk youth, and young adults. Possible funding sources include: Employment Preparation Aid, other formula Aid-to-Schools programs, Vocational Education Act, and the Tuition Assistance program.

3. To use technology to generate information, assessment, placement and instruction services to JTPA clients being served by education agencies and institutions.

The first priority recognizes that localities often have certain population groups that have been previously underserved. This priority also attempts to encourage flexibility for provider agencies in order that they can build a customized program around the specific needs of the designated population. The second priority was designed to encourage the development of new ways to link and leverage existing education and JTPA dollars. The third priority, in acknowledging the major impact new technologies are having throughout the education system, attempts to establish innovative ways in which instructional and placement technologies can respond to the particular needs of clients in need of services and agencies which provide them. In all projects, the intent of the SEED program was to support local initiative and flexibility and, at the same time, develop programs that are usable throughout the education and employment communities.

Hard to Serve Populations

PROJECT TITLE: Operation Drop-In

Project Purpose: To link the City School District with the Harriet Eisman Community School in a coordinated Program of basic skills training, career counseling and preparedness, and vocational assessment for both at-risk adolescents and disadvantaged adults by expanding existing services and implementing a strategy whereby the individual participant can work toward a job or career as their specific training goal.

Provider Agency: Long Beach City School District

Project Grant Amount: $90,000 **Project Duration:** 10 months

Number Served: 143

Agency Contact Person: Donald Whalen, Administrator

Address: 235 Lido Boulevard
Lido Beach, NY 11561

Phone: (516) 889-2499

Project Summary: The services of four local agencies were linked to provide comprehensive educational services, career/employability training, and technological services to youth and adults identified as being potentially structurally unemployed. The agencies involved were the Long Beach City School Adult Learning Center, the Harriet Eisman Community School, the Town of Hempstead Department of Occupational Resources, and the City of Long Beach Office of Youth Services.

The SEED program provided the impetus for these agencies to combine efforts under the leadership of the City School District which enabled participants to receive a range of cost effective services in a coordinated fashion that none of the participating agencies could not provide alone.

The main problem encountered was some initial difficulty in recruiting participants. As a result, more effective methods of advertising and recruiting were developed and the total number served exceeded initial estimates. Over 75% of the participants were placed in appropriate employment or training.

PROJECT TITLE: Project React

Project Purpose: To enable educationally and vocationally handicapped displaced homemakers acquire basic skills, the necessary self confidence, and the requisite job skills to become financially independent and self-sufficient.

Provider Agency: Agudath Israel

Project Grant Amount: $69,640 **Project Duration:** 18 months

Number Served: 18

Agency Contact Person: Ms. Risa Silverman

Address: 805 Kings Highway
Brooklyn, NY 11225

Phone: (718) 627-3500

Project Summary: The services of the Fresh Start Training Program, COPE Institute, Agudath Israel ESL program, and Project STAY were linked to provide outreach, testing, remedial education, job readiness skills, individual and group counseling, training in business/clerical skills, and intensive job placement. Funding sources such as JTPA 78%, New York City Youth Bureau funds, PELL grants, Work Study grants, and government loans supported different components of the program.

The primary problems encountered were the lack of a sense of responsibility and low self esteem by many of the students, resulting in frequently missed classes. Despite this, over 70% of participants completed the program and over 70% of completers entered unsubsidized employment. Most of these clients had never worked, or had worked only sporadically.

PROJECT TITLE: Career Preparation and Work-Study for Handicapped In-School Youth

Project Purpose: To implement a joint program of career preparation and work-study for special education students not presently served by OVR.

Provider Agency: Gustave-Hartman YM-YWHA

Project Grant Amount: $33,280 **Project Duration:** 10 months

Number Served: 36

Agency Contact Person: Mrs. Helen Weil

Address: 1800 Seagirt Blvd.
Rockaways, NY 11691

Phone: (718) 471-9600/0200

Project Summary: The focus of this project was to provide a smoother transition to the world of work for students identified as handicapped by the New York City public schools who in addition to being handicapped were from poverty households, predominantly members of a minority group, and geographically isolated from the metropolitan center of the City. This was a joint effort between the Gustave Hartman YM-YWHA and the New York City public schools, but included many other program linkages with agencies such as St. John's Episcopal Hospital, Peninsula Hospital Center, Creedmore Hospital Center, the Rockaway Youth Consultation Center, Catholic Charities Crisis Team and Mental Health Clinics, local OVR, and others.

In working with this population, the key component was counseling with an emphasis on familiarization with the world of work because most of these youth had little work experience. Counseling staff from both the local schools and Gustave-Hartman provided speakers, trips, tapes, discussions, and structured work experience to accomplish this.

Some difficulty was experienced with a late startup date, and in complying with the JTPA procedures for intake and eligibility determination which were viewed as being overly burdensome and time consuming.

Results were extremely positive with 34 of 36 participants completing the program, and all of these either entering employment, returning to school or going on to further training.

PROJECT TITLE: Skills Training Program for Severely Disabled Youth

Project Purpose: To provide a range of counseling, assessment, and career awareness services to severely disabled in-school youth.

Provider Agency: New York University Medical Center

Project Grant Amount: $84,000 **Project Duration:** 14 months

Number Served: 50

Agency Contact Person: Joyce Mesch-Spinello

Address: 400 East 34th Street
New York, NY 10016

Phone: (212) 340-6050

Project Summary: Mobility impaired youth from 12 city schools were referred to the project by the City Board of Education. Project components included scholastic and vocational assessment, individual and group counseling, career awareness seminars, special transportation support, and placement into summer employment. The rationale behind this program was that employment related services of this type are not generally available in the school setting. For this population to successfully make the transition from school into the world of work, extensive preparation must be done before students are confronted with the necessity of seeking employment. In this effort, the primary linkages were with the Mayor's Office of the Handicapped, the New York City TAP Centers, and the New York City Department of Employment. Sources of matching funds were in-kind services and project staff salaries provided by New York University Medical Center and private foundation funds which supplied the transportation.

The major obstacle encountered was the program location at the medical center which made it difficult to schedule convenient times and required special transportation support.

The program was successful in that 49 of 50 students completed training, and 46 of these completers were placed in a summer work experience. As a result of the project's success, discussions have been in progress regarding implementation of a Training Opportunities Program for handicapped youth that would take place in the school setting, eliminating many of the problems with scheduling and transportation.

PROJECT TITLE: Vocational Rehabilitation for Substance Abusers

Project Purpose: To provide academic and vocational skills preparation coupled with counseling support for disadvantaged adults identified as being substance abusers.

Provider Agency: Kings County Hospital Center

Project Grant Amount: $68,000 **Project Duration:** 11 months

Number Served: 61

Agency Contact Person: Malcomb Jackson

Address: 451 Clarkson Avenue, F Building
Brooklyn, NY 11203

Phone: (718) 735-3402

Project Summary: In this project, recovering alcoholics and ex-substance abusers were referred to Kings County Hospital from vocational rehabilitation offices, substance abuse services offices, and veterans affairs offices. Clients received a range of services including educational assessment, classroom remediation, vocational skills training, referral to other education and training programs, psychological assessment and counseling, and job placement. The major source of matching funds came from the State Division of Substance Abuse Services, which is the primary source of support for the hospital rehabilitation program.

As a result of this program, 51 of the 61 participants completed training, and of those completing training, approximately 50% have been placed in unsubsidized employment.

The value of extended assessment and remediation for substance abusers was substantiated and is being continued at the hospital. At least one other hospital center that provides rehabilitation services is interested in adopting the program. Furthermore, periodic program evaluations submitted to the State Division of Substance Abuse Services provide the basis for implementation of the model in other facilities administered by the agency.

PROJECT TITLE: Adult Education Services for Teenage Parents

Project Purpose: To provide teenage parents with educational counseling and supportive services leading toward self-sufficiency and eventual job placement.

Provider Agency: New York City Board of Education

Project Grant Amount: $60,000 **Project Duration:** 10 months

Number Served: 21

Agency Contact Person: Helen R. Weinberg

Address: 347 Baltic Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Phone: (718) 596-4404

Project Summary: Teenage parents between 16 and 19 years of age who were high school dropouts receiving public assistance were referred to this project by the New York City Human Resources Administration's Department of General Social Services. Clients received basic education assessment and remediation, counseling, life skills training, child care, and job referral. Matching funds for this project were established from a number of sources including the Vocational Education Act, Employment Preparation Education, Welfare Education Program, Adult Education Act, and local tax levy money.

Despite identifying approximately 70 youth who were in need of these services, a variety of factors prevented all but 21 from participating. Because of a delay in establishing allowance and child care support services, a number of students had difficulty attending the program and eventually dropped out. Part of the problem with recruitment and support services was due to staff turnover at the Department of General Social Services.

Of the 21 students enrolled, six completed training goals, two entered JTPA training, one entered unsubsidized employment, and one returned to school full time. The primary accomplishment of this program was that enrollees were able to view public assistance as a stop gap measure and to accept the idea that unsubsidized employment was a real possibility.

PROJECT TITLE: Comprehensive Services for Displaced Homemakers

Project Purpose: To provide displaced homemakers with educational, counseling, and career services with the eventual goal of referral to further training or employment.

Provider Agency: Orange County Community College

Project Grant Amount: $80,000 **Project Duration:** 10 months

Number Served: 35

Agency Contact Person: Peter Alberghini

Address: 115 South Street
Middletown, NY 10940

Phone: (914) 343-1121

Project Summary: Displaced homemakers, many dependent on public assistance, received comprehensive assessment, computer assisted academic remediation, career goal setting assistance, referral to job training programs, and placement services from project staff at the community college. In addition, child care and health services were provided by the Community Health Center, Inc., the County Department of Mental Health, Planned Parenthood, and the Regional Community Action Program. Primary matching support was made available through Community College funds covering staff, facilities, equipment and supplies.

As a result of active outreach and recruitment, project enrollments exceeded original projections. Seventy-seven percent of enrolled participants completed the project activities. Because of this effort, both the Community College and the Private Industry Council in the future will serve more effectively displaced homemakers as a target group. This project demonstrated that this group can benefit from training when a variety of local services are used in a unified way.

PROJECT TITLE: Educational Services for the Homeless

Project Purpose: To provide outreach basic education skills in the shelters and to provide technical assistance in acquiring available social services. A further goal was to create a link between educational services and potential employers by improving the existing network of services to this population.

Provider Agency: Albany City School District

Project Grant Amount: $56,000 **Project Duration:** 13 months

Number Served: 343

Agency Contact Person: John Tracy

Address: 27 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

Phone: (518) 462-7292

Project Summary: The project focused primarily on youth aged 16-21 and adults aged 22-35 who were residents of six shelters in the Albany area. The goal of the project was to provide clients with education and training outreach services in the shelter setting that would lead to employment. The critical link was to establish a relationship among emergency assistance oriented agencies offering basic necessities (food, housing, clothing), the education, training, and employment agencies, and potential employers in the community. The primary linkages in this program were among the Albany City Schools Adult Learning Center, the Travelers Aid Society, and the City Department of Human Resources.

Despite the fact that this population is extremely mobile, making it difficult to provide a continuity of services, the program was highly successful in meeting its objectives. The total number of clients enrolled in the education component of the shelter based programs was 343 persons compared with a planned enrollment of 150. This was 82% of all clients served by the three agencies involved. Of these participants, 24% obtained employment, 13% enrolled in training or other educational programs and 1% obtained General Education Diplomas. This demonstrates that within the homeless population, there is a significant percentage that can benefit from services leading to self-sufficiency and employment, and that these services can be successfully provided within the shelter setting.

The areas of need identified as a result of this effort were the need for short term training leading directly to employment, and spot employment that can provide the survival needs of this population while they are enrolled in training programs that provide new skills and employment options leading to career opportunities.

PROJECT TITLE: A Cooperative Rural Service Delivery System for At-Risk In-School Youth

Project Purpose: To link together a range of services in a coordinated approach to assist at-risk youth to remain in school.

Provider Agency: St. Lawrence BOCES

Project Grant Amount: $40,000 **Project Duration:** 7 months

Number Served: 12

Agency Contact Person: David Lansford

Address: Pinewood Opportunity Center
P.O. Box 225
Norwood, NY 13668

Phone: (315) 353-6644

Project Summary: Fifteen rural school districts were asked to identify at-risk students who were potential school dropouts. Twelve students were selected for the program who were teenage parents, youth on probation (PINS), delinquents, from families receiving public assistance, or who had substance abuse problems. The primary mechanism to coordinate client services was the case review process by members of a service delivery team. This team was composed of a parent and representatives from several area organizations including the Probation Department, the Department of Social Services, the Saint Lawrence Mental Health/Mental Retardation Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, the Saint Lawrence Office of Economic Development, the Private Industry Council, The Circle adolescent pregnancy program, and the Canton Potsdam Hospital. This approach was essential because there are a number of services available in a rural area, but often the delivery of these services is not done in any unified way. Students were provided with academic skills including computer skills, word processing, and graphics programming. Counseling was provided by teaching staff on a small group basis. Students with specific problems were referred to one of the local agencies through their participation in the service delivery team.

The primary objectives of coordinating services and preventing dropping out were met. The students all remained in school and, in fact, students in this program had a better attendance rate than those in the home schools. In addition, the participants in the program received needed services that would not otherwise be readily available in the school setting.

PROJECT TITLE: Career Development for Rural Women

Project Purpose: To provide rural women, receiving public assistance with preparation to pursue employment or education opportunities.

Provider Agency: Onondaga Community College

Project Grant Amount: $29,000 **Project Duration:** 6 months

Number Served: 22

Agency Contact Person: Patricia Pirro

Address: Center for Community Education
Syracuse, NY 13215

Phone (315) 469-7741

Project Summary: This project was conducted in three consecutive cycles at three separate community center cites in Onondaga County. Activities were conducted daily in five week sessions. Employment preparation included intensive individual and small group assessment, remediation, and employment skills instruction coupled with field visits to area education agencies and employers. The services of a number of local agencies were linked, including the County Department of Social Services (DSS), the United Way, Headstart, the County Employment and training Office, the Onondaga-Madison BOCES, the Private Industry Council, and the County Public Library EIC program. Transportation and child care were provided by DSS. Educational and vocational services were provided by the community college and the local Employment and Training Office.

Participants enthusiastically endorsed the project and implemented a strong peer support effort that contributed to the self-enabling objective of the program. Efforts of participating agencies resulted in a high rate of placement in jobs and continued education at BOCES and the Community Colleges. The project had an 80% completion rate and 28% of the participants entered unsubsidized employment, returned to full-time school or went on to further training. The major accomplishment of the project was that it succeeded in moving isolated women into productive community involvement.

PROJECT TITLE: Search Out Success/Displaced Homemakers

Project Purpose: To serve displaced homemakers in rural county locations, many of whom were public assistance recipients with dependent children, by providing pre-employment skills training and human services.

Provider Agency: Genesee Community College

Project Grant Amount: $25,000 **Project Duration:** 7 months

Number Served: 11

Agency Contact Person: Ruth Fossedal

Address: Office of Community Services
Genesee Community College
College Road
Batavia, NY 14020-9704

Phone: (716) 343-0055

Project Summary: Prior to the project's implementation, various human service agencies, businesses and professional offices throughout the county were made aware of the program during a community development phase which preceded actual training. Matching funds for related project activities were provided by the Community College with local YMCA facilities being contracted for participant training. Participants received career and personal counseling, employability skills training and mentoring. The main problem encountered was difficulty in making transportation arrangements for many participants.

The project was successful in creating an awareness of displaced homemakers as a group with special needs, and employers, agencies, and potential clients were made aware of the services available at the Community College. Furthermore, all participants completed the program objectives and eighty-two percent entered further training programs. Project activities resulted in development of a more comprehensive approach among local human service agencies. The Community College has continued services to this target group using Carl D. Perkins Act funds.

PROJECT TITLE: Toward Growth Independent Futures for Teenage Parents

Project Purpose: To assist teenage parents in planning for constructive futures by providing them with the necessary counseling and resources leading to job training and employment.

Provider Agency: Everywoman's Opportunity Center

Project Grant Amount: $45,000 **Project Duration:** 11 months

Number Served: 13

Agency Contact Person: Myrna Young

Address: Everywoman's Opportunity Center, Inc.
237 Main Street
Suite 330
Buffalo, NY 14203

Phone: (716) 847-1120

Project Summary: This project was developed to serve teenage parents with problems ranging from dropping out of school to the inability to establish future career goals. Linkages were developed among Planned Parenthood, the Department of Social Services, the SDA and various other community agencies to provide a range of services, including basic skills and job training, counseling leading to job attainment, and life skills training.

Initially, recruitment and commitment of participants were the major problems encountered. Difficulties with child care, transportation, weather conditions and other non-program factors created problems with attendance and retention in the program. Despite these problems, of the 13 participants, 12 completed career life plans, four attained a GED, 10 moved into training programs and three obtained part-time jobs.

State and Federal Program Linkages

PROJECT TITLE: Employability Training and Coordination Program for Handicapped Youth and Adults

Project Purpose: To provide job readiness, counseling and work experience for handicapped youth and adults.

Provider Agency: Long Island Association for Children with Learning Disabilities

Project Grant Amount: $44,000 **Project Duration:** 8 months

Number Served: 22

Agency Contact Person: Denise Palter

Address: 9 Albertson Avenue
Albertson, NY 11507

Phone: (516) 625-0419

Project Summary: The project linked the services of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Occupational Resources, the Nassau BOCES, various school districts' Committees on the Handicapped, several colleges' Offices for Disabled Students, and private rehabilitation agencies in order to provide comprehensive services, including classroom remediation, vocational counseling, job placement, referral to education and training programs, work experience and employability instruction. Participants were identified as having learning disabilities and neurological impairment by one of the referral agencies. Training efforts used a model adaptive curriculum which allowed clients to receive instruction and counseling specific to their handicaps. Primary matching funds were provided by the ACLD which is largely supported through their own fundraising efforts.

The major difficulty in developing this project was that the project length was too short to adequately explore linkages in the community that could have enhanced the designing of a curriculum for handicapped clients. As a result of this project, the local school system became aware of how severely handicapped students could be better served by using the adaptive curriculum model developed by this project. Information about the project and curriculum materials were shared via journal submissions and conferences.

PROJECT TITLE: Linkage of State and Federally Funded Programs to Serve At-Risk Youth and Adults

Project Purpose: To develop, implement and demonstrate a model to link JTPA services, state and other federally funded programs serving at-risk youth and adults.

Provider Agency: Community School District 18.

Project Grant Amount: $100,000 **Project Duration:** 12 months

Number Served: 135

Agency Contact Person: Elaine Rosales

Address: 755 E. 100th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Phone: (718) 257-7510

Project Summary: The goal of this project was to link, via the projects' guidance oriented support services, an adult education program, a JTPA 8% basic skills program, and a 78% skills training program to provide coordinated services to SEED participants. The key element in this program was the student liaison teacher whose roll was to facilitate the smooth transition between program components, monitor client progress and attendance, act as intermediary in solving social and health problems, and conduct weekly sessions for coping and problem solving skills. Supportive services provided by numerous local agencies were used on a referral basis. In addition, eight community based organizations and educational agencies were used for placement in skills training programs at the completion of SEED activities.

Difficulties were experienced in articulating with ongoing JTPA 78% and 8% programs because they were often fully enrolled or were operating on a different schedule from the SEED project.

The project achieved its main objective, of referring 80% of the JTPA eligible enrollees to appropriate basic skills and skills training programs and supplementing followup activities with appropriate support services as assessed by a review of completed student files. A secondary objective was the achievement of a significant gain in attitudinal development as measured by improvement on the Socio-emotional Rating Scale administered on a pretest-post-test basis. In addition, matching sources were generated from a State Legislative Grant, Chapter I PSEN, ESEA Title VII, local tax levy money, State Drug Abuse Prevention Program, and State Attendance Improvement/Dropout Prevention funds.

The agency is actively disseminating information about the project through a brochure developed to assist other agencies in replicating the program.

PROJECT TITLE: Attendance Improvement Through Work Experience

Project Purpose: To improve the school attendance of disadvantaged youth using work experience as a motivating factor.

Provider Agency: Grand Street Settlement

Project Grant Amount: $98,000 **Project Duration:** 6 months

Number Served: 102

Agency Contact Person: Larry Mandell

Address: 80 Pitt Street
New York, NY 10002

Phone: (212) 674-1740

Project Summary: Disadvantaged youth from lower Manhattan with poor attendance patterns were given classroom remediation coupled with career awareness orientation and counseling support. This was followed by placement in supervised work settings. The unique feature of this project was the focus on work site placement as a motivating experience toward improved school attendance and achievement.

The primary linkage developed was with Community School District 1 where four junior high school sites were used in the classroom portion of the program. The major source of matching funds was through a separate contract with the New York City Board of Education funded by the State Attendance Improvement/Dropout Prevention aid, which provides dropout prevention, tutoring and counseling activities.

Despite some initial problems with late startup and personnel turnover at one of the sites, enrollment targets were achieved and program objectives were met. In fact, during the term of the project, no dropouts were reported among the total number enrolled, and all were continuing their education at the project's conclusion. A more comprehensive evaluation of the project is being conducted by the Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation. Presently, at least one other city school district is interested in adopting the project to motivate potential dropouts toward improving attendance and remaining in school.

PROJECT TITLE: Articulated Reading and Math Skills (ARMS)

Project Purpose: To articulate reading and math instruction between the BOCES occupational education program and the component school districts' academic classes for economically disadvantaged youth.

Provider Agency: Steuben-Allegany BOCES

Project Grant Amount: $23,210 **Project Duration:** 7 months

Number Served: 30

Agency Contact Person: Nile Herman

Address: Box 202
Bath, NY 14810-9796

Phone: (607) 776-7631

Project Summary: Thirty disadvantaged in-school BOCES youth diagnosed as having significant mathematics and reading deficiencies were provided with remediation specifically tailored to assist them with their occupational training class work. The most important component of this project was the bringing together of the occupational education teacher and the component school teacher in a joint effort to help the students.

Involvement of the students and the component school teacher were strictly voluntary. It was the student's responsibility to do the assigned work and to report for tutoring. Resource and English teachers who were willing to work with students in the program were provided with supplemental text materials that were designed for adult education as opposed to high school remedial texts. In some cases where the home school teacher was unwilling to work with the program, remediation was provided at the BOCES in small groups of three or four.

This program was extremely successful in meeting the stated objectives. The average increase in reading and math was 3.2 grade levels, approximately 60% over the anticipated goal of a 2.0 grade level gain. Thirteen school districts and 15 occupational programs were involved, doubling the initial goal. Matching sources were generated by the $2,660 tuition for each BOCES student paid by the component school district. Also the project was linked with the JTPA 8% program funded through the SDA to operate basic skills programs. Teachers and students were universal in their praise for the concept and execution of the program. An unexpected benefit was that the students' gain in confidence improved to such a degree that they began to perform better in courses unrelated to ARMS instruction.

Use of Technology

PROJECT TITLE: Learning Center - Information and Referral

Project Purpose: To demonstrate how disadvantaged youth can more effectively be provided with an academic enrichment program coupled with greater employment and training opportunities through the use of technology.

Provider Agency: Bank Street College of Education

Project Grant Amount: $89,000 **Project Duration:** 6 months

Number Served: 30

Agency Contact Person: Robert Granger

Address: Basic Skills Academy
610 West 112th Street
New York, NY 10025

Phone: (212) 663-2200

Project Summary: Disadvantaged youth participating in separate basic skills programming and employability skills preparation were provided with enhanced services that included a computer assisted instruction format and an automated placement system. Over 75 local human service agencies participated in the automated referral system by providing client referral data to the project staff. The staff, in turn, maintained a city-wide information network of employment and training openings. Additional funding for the project was provided by private foundations, corporate contributions, and federal adult education programs.

The individualized instruction effort, enhanced by project funds, resulted in completion and placement rates that exceeded initial plans. Forty-four percent of program completers entered unsubsidized employment, and an additional thirty-two percent have either returned to school or entered additional training. The automated referral system was successful in integrating information from a number of agencies regarding the availability of training openings that would otherwise not be readily accessible.

Depending on corporate contributions, the project will pursue expansion of both the basic skills components and information/referral concepts with selected human service agencies in the greater New York area.

PROJECT TITLE: Skills for Personal Independence

Project Purpose: To coordinate academic training, life skills training, and job training using an automated computer system.

Provider Agency: Southern Westchester BOCES

Project Grant Amount: $50,000 **Project Duration:** 6 months

Number Served: 22

Agency Contact Person: John MacKay

Address: BOCES Special Education
Concord Road
Ardsley, NY 10502

Phone: (914) 693-8404

Project Summary: The program, operated by the Southern Westchester BOCES, provides an integrated approach for twenty individuals, aged 16-21 with handicapping conditions, which will prepare them for personal independence and unsubsidized employment. The project coordinated instruction in basic academic skills, entry level vocational skills, structure of free time, personal finances, self management and interactive social skills using a computerized management system. The clients served were mentally retarded students whose reading scores were between 1.3 and 4.8 years, and math scores between 1.8 and 4.0 years. This population has particular difficulty in transferring special skills learned in the classroom to meet the particular requirements of a job setting.

Agencies participating in the program included the Office for the Disabled, the County Department of Parks, the County Office Building (housekeeping), Westchester Community College (cafeteria), Tenex Communications, and NBB Office Supplies. Matching was provided through salaries for instructional and non instructional staff.

The project was seen as a success even though a longer time period would have improved the ability of participants to generalize newly acquired skills to other situations. 22 students completed the program, and 16 completed the OJT module. Eight percent increased their ability to do specific skills by 62% which was far above the original goal of 15%. Four students were offered competitive jobs. Several components of the program have been continued using other funding sources.

PROJECT TITLE: Automated Placement System

Project Purpose: To develop a trial system which provides for automated matching of JTPA participants with appropriate training programs or job openings.

Provider Agency: Albany City Department of Human Resources

Project Grant Amount: $27,800 **Project Duration:** 8 months

Number Served: Not Applicable

Agency Contact Person: Frank Adriano

Address: 88 North Lake Avenue
Albany, NY 12206-2578

Phone: (518) 434-5347

Project Summary: Intake and assessment data for JTPA eligible clients was entered into a computerized data base. An automated system was developed to match this information with job bank data and information about on-the-job training and classroom training options in the SDA. In this effort, the cooperation of the local Job Service office and local training agencies was necessary in securing appropriate information. Staff from the Albany Board of Education and Adult Learning Center assisted in the system development. The primary source of match was Adult Basic Education funds through the City Board of Education Adult Learning Center.

The initial goal of the project was to allow all counseling staff in the Department of Human Resources, including staff located in branch offices, to have immediate access to all available training and employment options, and to match this information with client information. Eventually, the system was to be expanded to incorporate the entire SDA. Because this project was designed primarily to assist in the development of a computer technology, the number of clients served was not applicable. However, after the system was developed, a trial period was employed to test its effectiveness.

Currently, the SDA is in the process of expanding the use of this system to include the Schenectady and Rensselaer Employment and Training offices as well as a satellite office in Watervliet. It has become an indispensable part of the intake, placement, and followup process and fulfills the requirements of the State's MIS system as well.

PROJECT TITLE: Use of Technology in Basic Skills Instruction

Project Purpose: To examine the effectiveness of using computer assisted instruction to provide basic skills instruction to disadvantaged clients in locations where basic skills training is not available.

Provider Agency: Erie I BOCES

Project Grant Amount: $104,000 **Project Duration:** 11 months

Number Served: 347

Agency Contact Person: James Dunnigan

Address: 2 Pleasant Avenue West
Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: (716) 686-2104

Project Summary: Instruction in reading, language arts, and mathematics was provided to disadvantaged adults at the Seneca Indian Reservation and the Erie County DSS complex. The goals of the project were for participants to complete successfully the requirements for a high school equivalency diploma, improve reading and math levels by at least three grade levels, or move into skills training programs or unsubsidized employment. Referrals were made back to the DSS office for training, OJT, and job search, and to the local JTPA office and the Everywoman Opportunity Center for further job readiness training and placement services.

The target groups, native Americans and public assistance recipients, had many common problems including lack of a high school diploma and access to basic skills classes. Program participants with established lifestyles of long-term unemployment, were often reluctant to move on to a job or training after attainment of a GED. Often there was a loss of contact with clients after enrollment or completion because many had no phone or had changed addresses. Some problems were also reported in getting a signoff from the local school district for EPE funds used for matching and with delays in getting travel money from local DSS offices.

An extension was granted so that the project could continue beyond the original ending date. Because of this, final outcome data was not available. However, preliminary reports show that a number of clients have been successful in achieving program goals including entering unsubsidized employment, attaining GEDs, returning to or beginning secondary or postsecondary schools, and entering JTPA and other training programs.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS, PROGRAM YEAR 1985-86

In order to continue the focus on the hardest to serve, the SEED program in 1985-86 concentrated on specific areas of the State that had a disproportionate concentration of economically disadvantaged populations. The Request for Proposals was targeted on communities experiencing extreme economic and social distress as identified by a range of education and economic variables.

The emphasis for the new projects was shifted to the innovative use of local education institutions as bases of operation for both the coordination and the provision of education, training and employment related services. Building on the success of many PY 1984-85 projects in leveraging other education resources, this year's RFP required a match of 3:1 of non-JTPA to JTPA dollars.

Program approaches that would fulfill the requirements of this RFP were those in which an already operating education agency would expand its role to provide a comprehensive management function, including securing ways in which the employability needs of the hardest to serve could be met by other service providers within the school building. Possible program components are individualized assessment, referral to other programs, information about local employment opportunities, job outlook, job placement, education and training programs, and other human services within the community. The projects should exemplify ways in which the schools, in cooperation with other human services providers, can address a host of social, physical, and economic needs endemic to those communities and individuals in economic distress. The coordinating agency would be expected to integrate education with employment resources in a community and offer a site for programs sponsored by a variety of other organizations. It would act as an umbrella organization, under which other providers could operate and manage the delivery of services to eligible JTPA clients.

PROJECT TITLE: Bridge to Brooklyn/Attendance Improvement

Project Purpose: To provide counseling, world of work preparation and job placement to 150 at-risk students in Bushwick High School.

Provider Agency: Grand Street Settlement

Project Grant Amount: $82,221 **Project Duration:** 18 months

Number Served: 150

Agency Contact Person: Lawrence Mandell, Executive Director

Address: Grand Street Settlement, Inc.
80 Pitt Street
New York, NY 10002

Phone: (212) 674-1740

Project Summary: This project builds on Attendance Improvement/Dropout Prevention services Grand Street Settlement is currently providing at Bushwick High School as part of a new citywide initiative. As a result of this program, youth will be helped to remain in school, improve their attendance, develop future goals and be better prepared for the world of work. The proposed program is modeled on Grand Street's 1984-85 SEED program which has been and continues to be an extremely effective program for at-risk youth in Manhattan's School District #1.

The project will help approximately 150 youngsters with histories of truancy and school failure to stay in school and to lead more productive lives after their formal schooling. In pursuit of these goals, the following objectives have been identified. 90% of youngsters at risk of dropping out will remain in school; 75% will show improved attendance; all will be exposed to world of work experiences; 75% will be placed in part-time and summer jobs, as well as try-out and OJT placements; all will be helped to make appropriate next steps that would enhance their potential for remaining in school. In addition, Grand Street Settlement maintains a close working relationship with hundreds of service providers throughout the city and through these linkages, participants will be helped with problems that may be interfering with successful achievement of future goals.

PROJECT TITLE: JOBSTART/Basic Skills and Employment Readiness for High School Dropouts

Project Purpose: To create a school-based, sequential education/employment readiness, and job skills model program.

Provider Agency: Basic Skills Academy

Project Grant Amount: $82,221 **Project Duration:** 12 months

Number Served: 100

Agency Contact Person: Virginia Kwarta

Address: 302 E. 96th Street
New York, NY 10028

Phone: (212) 410-4992

Project Summary: The JOBSTART program will provide 100 high school dropouts between the ages of 17 and 21 with a sequential program of highly individualized basic skills instruction, preoccupational skills training, and placement into locally available occupational training programs. This program uses existing linkages with training program operators, and an automated information and referral service. In conjunction with these activities, the program will provide training and related support services such as individual and group counseling, referral to agencies providing health care or child care, and needs-based incentive payments. Incentive payments will be tied to length of stay, program attendance and performance, and will be built into the participant support system to relieve transportation costs and/or stipends for other services received.

Basic Skills Academy, as a member of the West Side Task Force for Youth, is committed to the coordination of community efforts to serve at-risk youth. In addition to local service providers, task force members include parents, educators, and members of local school boards.

PROJECT TITLE: Project REACT/Assistance to Needy Urban Displaced Homemakers

Project Purpose: To expand and coordinate services to assist displaced homemakers in New York City.

Provider Agency: Agudath Israel of America

Project Grant Amount: $48,895 **Project Duration:** 7 months

Number Served: 56

Agency Contact Person: D. Zwiebel, Director of Office & Government Affairs

Address: Agudath Israel of America, Inc.
5 Beekman Street
New York, NY 10038

Phone: (212) 791-1800

Project Summary: Project REACT intends to meet the diverse needs of the target population by using a two-tiered approach: (1) a remedial program focusing on language and computational skills, in conjunction with an intensive job readiness and life skills program, for the displaced homemakers whose low basic skills level has severely handicapped their progress; and (2) employment training courses to those whose basic language and computational skills are intact but who lack marketable skills.

Participants will receive the special supportive and counseling services needed to help them overcome the emotional trauma of widowhood or divorce, to develop self-confidence, to set vocational and educational goals for themselves and, ultimately, to re-enter the job market and develop self-sufficiency.

PROJECT TITLE: Pre-Vocational Skills Training Program

Project Purpose: To provide academic and job readiness preparation for public assistance and at-risk youth who have not been able to enroll in JTPA programs because of low test scores, ineligibility or apparent unsuitability.

Provider Agency: Bronx Community College

Project Grant Amount: $82,221 **Project Duration:** 18 months

Number Served: 300

Agency Contact Person: Maria Gil, Director of Academic Upgrading

Address: Bronx Community College of the City University of New York
University Avenue & West 181 Street
Bronx, NY 10453

Phone: (212) 220-6266

Project Summary: Due to the stringent admission requirements for the JTPA programs in New York City which provide education, training and employment to unemployed youth and adults, many applicants experience difficulty in enrolling in these programs. When prevented from enrolling in these programs because of low test scores, poor command of English, problems with child care and housing, substance abuse or lack of medical care, most become discouraged and resigned to taking their places on the rolls of the permanently unemployed.

The project provides tutoring and small-group instruction in reading and math for students who score low on standardized tests. JTPA eligibility folders will be prepared for all students. Counselors will help students secure missing eligibility documents such as birth certificates, social security cards and draft cards. Counselors will also refer students with drug or alcohol abuse problems to a treatment program and a health care program cooperating with the project. Students in need of welfare, child care or housing will receive direct assistance in securing these services. Academic and counseling progress will be monitored consistently and energetically so that students never lose sight of their goal — JTPA program enrollment. Special after-school counseling sessions and classes have been set up for at-risk students to encourage them to stay in school with the promise of a job or JTPA job training program awaiting them upon graduation.

PROJECT TITLE: An Urban School-Based Services Delivery System

Project Purpose: To develop and implement an innovative approach to address the specific educational and employment-related needs of most-in-need individuals including at-risk youth and unemployed adults in the community.

Provider Agency: Community School District 18

Project Grant Amount: $82,221 **Project Duration:** 18 months

Number Served: 225

Agency Contact Person: Elaine Rosales, Coordinator of Research and Evaluation

Address: Community School District 18
755 East 100 Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236

Phone: (718) 257-7510

Project Summary: Community School District 18 will address the specific needs of most-in-need adults and youth, both in-school and out-of-school by bringing together the services of its adult basic education program, Project Oasis (a basic skills program), its 8% basic skills program and the SEED program. Services to be provided include counseling, basic literacy instruction, pre-high school equivalency instruction, GED preparation, skills training and participant support services. In addition, School District 18 is linked to a netword of twenty local community-based organizations and service providers through which a range of client needs will be met. In this process a student/teacher liaison will be employed to assist clients in obtaining needed services.

A special component of the project will link JTPA SEED services with local CAR high schools by providing JTPA eligible students from Tilden High School, Wingate High School and Erasmus High School with High School Equivalency services and employment-related guidance and counseling services.

Project objectives are to prepare students to qualify for GED diplomas, to improve participants' development of personal adequacy and to refer participants to appropriate basic skills and skills training programs. The program will also provide appropriate follow-up activities, information on job outlook, job placement where applicable, and appropriate supportive human services.

PROJECT TITLE: Preemployment Skills Training for At-Risk Youth

Project Purpose: To provide preemployment skills training for thirty 14 and 15 year old JTPA eligible youth who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Provider Agency: Sullivan County Employment and Training Department

Project Grant Amount: $48,895 **Project Duration:** 18 months

Number Served: 30

Agency Contact Person: Joan Howard, Director

Address: Sullivan County Government Center
100 North Street
Monticello, NY 12701

Phone: (914) 794-6677

Project Summary: The Sullivan County Service Delivery Area in conjunction with the Monticello, Liberty and Fallsburg Central Schools will conduct an 18 month model program to provide comprehensive and intensive services to the target population which will encourage their successful participation in their school and community. Services to be provided include ongoing assessment, remediation, life skills, vocational exploration and work experience, combined with existing school curricula. It is anticipated that this program will encourage the participants to remain in school, enhance existing efforts to raise basic academic skills and increase employability upon leaving school. A case management model will be used to coordinate school and community activities for both the students and their parents. The involvement of the parents is an essential component of this program.

Prior to this program, these types of services were available only to students aged 16 and above. However, data indicates that many of the county's economically disadvantaged youth leave school at 16, before these programs begin. The expansion of cooperative programs to 14 and 15 year olds will provide students at-risk of dropping out with the needed supportive and educational services to encourage them to continue. In addition, client information gathered during the project will be available to assist local agencies in planning future programs and services for the participants upon completion of project activities. Evaluation of the project will also provide information needed by program operators to improve services to this target population.

PROJECT TITLE: Rural Services Coordination Project for At-Risk In-School Youth

Project Purpose: To coordinate the delivery of a variety of locally available health, social and educational services to assist at-risk youth in remaining in school.

Provider Agency: St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES

Project Grant Amount: $69,000 **Project Duration:** 18 months

Number Served: 50

Agency Contact Person: David Lansford, Principal

Address: Pinewood Opportunity Center
P.O. Box 225
Norwood, NY 13668

Phone: (315) 353-6644

Project Summary: The target population for this project is in-school most-in-need youth from 15 rural, isolated public school districts enrolled in a cooperative alternative high school. These youth include: teenage parents, youth on probation, delinquents, youth from families receiving food stamps and other public assistnece benefits, and youth from families with alcohol or substance abuse problems. All have been identified as being in danger of dropping out of school. The alternative high school (the Opportunity Center) operates at two sites in order to serve its isolated component districts.

A Service Delivery team consisting of a parent, a PIC representative and representatives from area agencies providing social, health and education and training services meets regularly at the Centers to discuss the most appropriate methods of assisting the students. This mechanism is the basis for a model for the coordination and delivery of services to a widely dispersed most-in-need rural population. The ultimate goal is the successful completion of high school and entry into employment or further training by the most-in-need youth served by the team.

A major part of the educational component of the program is a unique computer skills training curriculum specifically designed to meet the participants' employability requirements. This computer skills project is vital to the at-risk youth served by the Opportunity Centers primarily because computers are an integral part of the current and future job market. By learning computer skills, the student not only acquires needed and highly marketable job skills, but also gains self confidence and a positive attitude about his or her abilities.

PROJECT TITLE: A Rural Alternative High School Model to Serve At-Risk In-School Youth

Project Purpose: To identify potential dropouts, persons wishing to re-enroll in school and persons who have had unsuccessful experiences in a traditional high school setting in order to develop an individualized education plan as an alternative high school program.

Provider Agency: Jefferson-Lewis-Hamilton-Herkimer-Oneida BOCES

Project Grant Amount: $69,000 **Project Duration:** 12 months

Number Served: 50

Agency Contact Person: Myrtle R. Bauer, Director of Occupation Education

Address: Outer Arsenal Street Road
Watertown, NY 13601

Phone: (315) 788-3410

Project Summary: Through the combination of local, state and federal funding sources, the project will be a unique undertaking. This project was developed in response to steadily increasing dropout rates in many of the component school districts. An advisory committee, composed of component school, BOCES and SDA staff, has been established to develop an alternative high school program for students 15 to 19 years of age who are considered to be at-risk of dropping out. The intent is to work with students with normal or above normal abilities who are in need of special counseling and instructional strategies.

The instructional delivery will be non-traditional in the sense that a combination of class room instruction, peer tutoring, career counseling, supervised work experience and on-the-job training activities will be used as educational support. The primary objective of this program is for the student to return to regular high school. All activities and curricula will be consistent with the Commissioner's regulations governing secondary education.

PROJECT TITLE: A School-Based Service Delivery System for the Most-In-Need

Project Purpose: To develop a school-based comprehensive service delivery system serving Oswego County's most-in-need residents who experience a combination of social, physical and economic barriers to available educational and employment opportunity.

Provider Agency: Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services

Project Grant Amount: $68,000 **Project Duration:** 12 months

Number Served: 50

Agency Contact Person: Dr. Burton Ramer, District Superintendent

Address: Oswego County Board of Cooperative Educational Services
County Route 64
Mexico, NY 13114

Phone: (315) 963-7251

Project Summary: The Oswego County BOCES SEED Project is a school-based comprehensive service delivery system in which an educational agency has a key role in partnership with local employment and training and human service organizations. Clients selected for the program will be JTPA eligible individuals experiencing long-term structural unemployment, welfare dependency, educational deficiencies and other barriers to employment.

The BOCES will provide the coordination, counseling, and referral of the most-in-need to enable them to benefit from locally available education and employment opportunities. A school-based case model will be employed in which a client receives the required services needed from all human service agencies simultaneously. The key element in this system is that the BOCES will take the responsibility for each client to ensure that services are received and that clients do not "fall through the cracks" in the system.

To ensure the coordination of existing local services, a local advisory committee will be established to identify community needs and resources and to ensure continued community cooperation and participation.

PROJECT TITLE: **Pre-Vocational Assessment & Coordination Project**

Project Purpose: To establish the Syracuse City School District as the Coordinating Umbrella Organization (CUO) for the creation of a multi-delivery system component for a Prevocational Assessment project.

Provider Agency: Syracuse City Schools

Project Grant Amount: $82,000 **Project Duration:** 6 months

Number Served: 125

Agency Contact Person: Joseph Danizewski
Mario B. Tomasetti

Address: 225 Harrison Street
Syracuse, NY 13210

Phone: (315) 425-4300 or 4135

Project Summary: This project will coordinate the provision of services to youth, 18 and above, and adults identified as most-in-need to prepare them for entry into the workforce or further training. The primary services to be provided are vocational assessment and evaluation, occupational and career awareness and counseling, and readiness factoring-life skills services. Through this process clients will develop an awareness of possibilities in the world of work and begin to develop a plan toward achieving career goals. In addition, clients will develop skills to enable them to successfully pursue their individual goals.

Each delivery-system component will be coordinated under the district's role as CUO which requires that the school take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that participants receive needed local services. The goal is to link those community service providers associated with the delivery of services to individuals recognized as most-in-need.

PROJECT TITLE: An Alternative Education Model for At-Risk Urban Youth

Project Purpose: To provide vocational and academic education, counseling, and structured work experience to youth who have either dropped out of school or who are in danger of dropping out.

Provider Agency: Rochester City School District

Project Grant Amount: $96,000 **Project Duration:** 6 months

Number Served: 100

Agency Contact Person: Donna Phillips

Address: 131 West Broad Street
Rochester, NY 14608

Phone: (716) 325-4569 - ext. 2326

Project Summary: One hundred at-risk youth aged 16-20 will be referred to the program from 10 city high schools. The primary purpose of the project will be to encourage these youth to remain in or return to school. Students will be involved in an academic component of the program designed to assist them in successfully passing the Regents Competency tests, achieving a high school diploma, or achieving a GED. A counseling component, provided by the school district and the Urban League of Rochester, will focus on work readiness skills, orientation to the world of work, and personal attitude development. Coupled with this will be vocational training and work experience on a rotating schedule of sites so that the student is exposed to a number of different employment experiences. This paid work experience will be used as a motivating factor in that this component will not be provided unless the student attends to the academic requirements.

PROJECT TITLE: Employability Enhancement for At-Risk Youth

Project Purpose: To provide economically disadvantaged, high-risk youth with services needed to obtain high school diplomas.

Provider Agency: Buffalo and Erie County Private Industry Council, Inc.

Project Grant Amount: $90,000 **Project Duration:** 12 months

Number Served: 85

Agency Contact Person: Marie Kaczmarek

Address: Buffalo & Erie County Private Industry Council, Inc.
170 Franklin Street, Crosby Building
Buffalo, NY 14202

Phone: (716) 856-8705

Project Summary: The project will coordinate the services of the Buffalo and Erie County Private Industry Council, Inc., the Buffalo Board of Education, the Erie County BOCES, and the Summer Youth Employment Program to provide 85 economically disadvantaged in-school youth with a mix of basic skills instruction, pre-employment skills, career exploration and work experience during the summer.

The goal of the program is to provide educational enhancement instruction designed to afford at-risk students with a competitive edge to increase their potential for remaining in and completing school. The career goals/job seeking skills' segment of the program will emphasize the importance of academic credentials in obtaining a meaningful job and will encourage the youth to complete school prior to entering the job market.

PROJECT TITLE: JOBSTART / Employability Development for Unemployed Youth

Project Purpose: To provide comprehensive employability development services to educationally and economically disadvantaged unemployed youth.

Provider Agency: Allentown Community Center, Inc.

Project Grant Amount: $66,000 **Project Duration:** 15 months

Number Served: 50

Agency Contact Person: Kenneth H. Cowdery

Address: Allentown Community Center, Inc.
111 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14201

Phone: (716) 885-6400

Project Summary: Services will be provided through a consortium that will include the Allentown Community Center, Inc. and six postsecondary institutions in Erie County. The program will include competency-based basic skills upgrading, extensive support services, school-based occupational skills training, and individualized private sector job placement assistance to fifty educationally and economically disadvantaged, unemployed youth who lack the academic and occupational skills necessary for successful entry into meaningful employment.

The JOBSTART model calls for a mix of key services to be offered to the subgroup of youth who are likely to experience severe employment difficulties throughout their lives, i.e., economically disadvantaged school dropouts, aged 17 to 21, who are deficient in basic skills and employment-related skills. Occupational skills training will be provided by postsecondary schools that will customize their program to meet the needs of the target population. This will include expanding the capacity of these schools to address the social, personal and supportive service needs of each participant by linking with the Allentown/ABLEY Youth Services Consortium (AYSC), a JTPA-funded youth employment program which for ten years has provided employability development services to disadvantaged, inner-city youth in Buffalo. AYSC will act as the "umbrella" entity and provide such services as outreach and recruitment, assessment, counseling, remedial education and job placement.

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